

Unemployment Compensation Provisions in the CARES Act

The CARES Act, passed on March 27, 2020, significantly expanded unemployment insurance to help those who have lost their job due to COVID-19.

Supplemental Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) – This provides up to an additional \$600 a week for any worker eligible for state or federal unemployment compensation.

- Supplemental benefits will be available through July 31 and will be applied retroactively to the date of unemployment, up through March 29, 2020
- The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) began sending unemployment compensation that included the FPUC on April 5.
- The FPUC will not affect eligibility for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program

Expanded Eligibility for Unemployment Benefits – The State of Illinois entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor to expand eligibility to provide unemployment compensation to workers who are not normally eligible for benefits, so long as their employment is connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. Expanded eligibility will provide benefits to self-employed individuals, independent contractors, "gig workers" and individuals who were unable to start a new job or contract due to the pandemic.

- The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) plans to have this system up and running by the week of May 11.
- These unemployment compensation payments will be applied retroactively to the date of unemployment, up through January 27, 2020.
- Individuals who are covered by the expanded unemployment compensation eligibility provisions, like the self-employed, independent contractors and gig workers, will also receive the additional \$600 per week FPUC payment.

13 Additional Weeks of Emergency Unemployment Compensation – The State of Illinois is working to implement a CARES Act provision to provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to workers who need beyond what is provided for in state and federal law. This builds on the additional 26 weeks provided in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and will allow Illinoisans to receive unemployment compensation for up to 39 weeks.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I file an unemployment compensation claim?

Unemployment compensation claims can be filed through the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The link to file a claim can be found [here](#). If you are having trouble filling out your online claim, please call IDES at (800) 244-5631. Due to increased demand, the website may be slow to load, and the phone lines may be busy. Keep trying. The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) is continuing to build out capacity at their call centers to meet the increased demand.

How about tipped workers?

Tipped workers who qualify for unemployment compensation will all receive the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation. Unemployed workers who do not have enough reported income to qualify for state unemployment compensation but are able and available to work if it weren't for COVID-19 may be eligible for a smaller federal payment.

Can workers get unemployment compensation at the same time as they receive employer-provided paid leave?

No, workers who are receiving paid leave are not eligible for unemployment compensation.